

VZCZCXRO8559
PP RUEHLA
DE RUEHMD #0304/01 0831810
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 241810Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0413
INFO GIPNC/GLOBAL INITIATIVE PARTNER NATIONS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0952
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0744
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 3913

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 000304

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/WE'S ELAINE SAMSON AND STACIE ZERDECKI
FOR ISN/WMDT'S THOMAS LOWE, MIA TER HAAR, AND BRYAN SCHILLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/24/2019
TAGS: [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KGIC](#) [MCAP](#) [PINS](#) [PINR](#) [PTER](#) [SP](#)
KS, RS
SUBJECT: SPAIN MAKING EFFORTS TO ATTEND, PRESENT AT GICNT
EVENTS IN SEOUL

REF: A. SECSTATE 22354
[1](#)B. SECSTATE 21325
[1](#)C. SECSTATE 18574

Classified By: ADCM William H. Duncan for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY. In conjunction with the Korean and Russian Embassies, Post on March 12 jointly delivered REFTELS A and B demarches to Carlos Torres, Counselor for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in the MFA,s DG for Strategic Affairs & Terrorism. Torres responded that the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) workshop in Seoul on April 14-15 and the Exercise Planning Group (EPG) meeting on April 16 were "worthwhile" events and "a good idea." However, he also added frankly that - because of existing commitments by MFA non-proliferation personnel, a tight budget due to Spain's impending stint at the helm of the EU's rotating Presidency during the first half of 2010, and the relatively little advance notice of the invitation - "it won't be easy" for Spain to attend. Torres has requested written invitations by the Korean, Russian and US. governments to help sway MFA senior leadership on the importance of Spain's presence in Seoul. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (C) POLOFF delivered the REFTEL A and B demarches in coordination with DCM Hangu Oh of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, departing Political Counselor Alexey V. Dementiev of the Embassy of the Russian Federation and his recently arrived successor, Dimitri Sokolov. (Note: After four or five years in Madrid, Dementiev - whom Post found to be very engaging and accommodating, but not suspiciously or disingenuously so - is returning to Moscow at the end of March to work in the MFA's Office of European Affairs to serve as director for issues related to Spain, Portugal and Andorra. End note.)

[1](#)3. (C) Dementiev asked if Carmen Bujan, the MFA DG for Strategic Affairs and Terrorism, would be able to represent the GOS at the EPG. Torres said that the GOS has a lot to offer at the GICNT EPG: a mix of institutional, political and technical expertise that the GOS has gained from its experience in hosting and presenting at GICNT events in 2008. Nevertheless, he stated that he could not guarantee a presence at Bujan's level.

[1](#)4. (C) Mr. Oh asked for the favor of a response "as soon as possible" and noted that Spanish Foreign Minister Moratinos would be traveling to the Republic of Korea on March 23. Torres said he was previously unaware of the Minister's travel to the Republic of Korea, but described the trip as "important" in trying to build the political case for GOS participation at the GICNT events in Seoul. Torres also took advantage of the joint demarche to make a pitch for closer

Spanish-Korean cooperation on nuclear issues. He highlighted an official business trip he had taken to Pusan in late 2008, but suggested that Madrid and Seoul do not interact as closely or as often as they should. He encouraged the Korean diplomat to be in more frequent contact.

15. (C) Torres has commented to POLOFF that the back-to-back GICNT events in Seoul during April 14-16 and in Garmisch, Germany during April 20-22 were a bit problematic for the GOS. Torres says that the GOS has a lot to offer in sharing its experiences and lessons learned with other GI partners, but he told Embassy officials on March 24 that he believes the GOS is somewhat fatigued on the issue, after Madrid exerted quite an effort to host so many events in 2008. Following the joint demarche, Torres has suggested that the Directorate General for Strategic Affairs and Terrorism could build a stronger case for Spanish participation in Seoul if the joint U.S.-Korean-Russian demarche were followed by a formal, written invitation at the Deputy Foreign Minister level. Immediately following the demarche, Torres drafted brief, sample language that the Korean Foreign Minister or Ambassador could use in writing to Lossada. Torres on March 12 shared a copy with Post for comment before he forwarded it on to the Korean Embassy in Madrid. Post is providing that language in Paragraph 6. Torres also has suggested that a similar written invitation to Lossada by the U.S. Department of State - perhaps in coordination with the Russian MFA - would help maintain the momentum in GOS non-proliferation efforts and would help sway MFA officials to look favorably upon the invitation for GOS officials to be present in Seoul.

MADRID 00000304 002 OF 002

16. (U) Begin sample text:

Bearing in mind the experience of your Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the political, institutional and technical arenas within the context of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, and its recent contributions to the Exercise Planning Group in Washington in November 2008, my Government would be appreciative if Spain were to attend the upcoming meetings of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in Seoul during April 14-16 and deliver a presentation on the Spanish experience at the Exercise Planning Group meeting on April 16.

End sample text.
CHACON